

## Evening Telegraph

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1864.

## SPIRIT OF THE NEW YORK PRESS.

Leading Editorials from the New York Papers This Morning.

## UNEMPLOYED GENERALS.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill providing that all generals who shall not, on a fixed day in February, have been in actual service, shall cease to be connected with the army. We hope the Senate will consider it with some care the scope and effect of this bill before they give it their sanction. Unquestionably, many of the general's now on the roll may and should be dropped for the good of the service; but we doubt whether the way proposed in this bill for determining who those generals are is the best that can be devised.

Commanders in the field are not always above the ordinary weaknesses, prejudices, error, and remissness of mortals; and they may, from very inadequate motives, seek substitutes out of active employment long enough to bring them under the operation of this proposed law, and thus deprive the nation of their services.

Schofield's account is the true one. The Rebels were surprised with fearful loss, and our retreat during the following night was precisely what Schofield had purposed. He had not proposed, with two corps, to fight a pitched battle with the whole Rebel army; and that he achieved, inflicting a loss at least twice as heavy as he incurred. The Rebels had no officer out of Virginia so effective in sight as Col. Cleburne, and his loss cannot well be repaired.

On the whole, it seems plain that the Rebels are rapidly recruited, and are growing stronger every day. If more force were needed to make a speedy end of the war, we trust the President will not hesitate to call for them promptly and frankly. With 200,000 more men in our armies, the fifth of March next should see Mr. Lincoln inaugurated President of a nation reunited and at peace.

trusting to the position to enable him to check the Rebel advance until his forces could be safely got away. And the calculation proved a sound one. Though his centre was once broken by the great momentum and valour of the Rebel charge, it was re-formed, and the lost ground regained, in a manner which gave us nearly a thousand prisoners.

In this point Hood's resort is unadvisable; but as he does not claim to have suffered a gain nor a loss, and to adduce a loss of forty-five hundred men in his favor, Major-General Cleburne and three brigades killed, with many more wounded or captured, it is clear that Schofield's account is the true one. The Rebels were surprised with fearful loss, and our retreat during the following night was precisely what Schofield had purposed. He had not proposed, with two corps, to fight a pitched battle with the whole Rebel army; and that he achieved, inflicting a loss at least twice as heavy as he incurred. The Rebels had no officer out of Virginia so effective in sight as Col. Cleburne, and his loss cannot well be repaired.

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## LITERARY REVIEWS.

*Adventures and Life Among the Redskins.* By Charles Francis Hall. Harper & Bros., New York.

Since the lamented Elihu Kent Kane published his voluminous work, recounting the incidents and results of his sojourn in the Frigid Zone, no work of importance has been laid before the public. The land of the distant North, of the aurora, and ice, has long been surrounded by a fascination for the inhabitants of our more temperate climates. Its picturesqueness, its frigid temperature; the eccentricities of its inhabitants; the sterility of its soil; and the mystery with which it is enveloped—all combined to draw the adventurous of civilized lands to seek excitement among its icy mountains and its unknown shores. The naturalist can revel in the oddities of nature's fancy.

The botanist, although cut off from the rich vegetation of the Tropics, has his place supplied with the curious ferns and lichens, which are possessed of mysterious medicinal properties. The whole wild desert of rocks and snows has its attraction, and a narrative of the adventures incident upon a journey into its heart can't but prove most interesting and instructive to our reading population. The large and profitless work of Dr. Kane was eagerly perused by all the American literati, and the author's success passed away; other discoveries have been made, and a considerable number of the latest information from the Polar regions is given by our people.

Captain Hall has presented us with a work. For three years he has been shut out from civilization, living among the Esquimaux. One of them, hunting, fishing, exploring. Living with them, he has imbibed their feelings, studied their language and habits, and his return to us with a systematic review of their life and manners. The last pages of his work were written on the eve of his departure for the ice-clad home of his adoption, and ere now he must be breathing the invigorating air of the icebergs and the glacier.

He has made a most useful work out of his journals, and has done much towards deciding the vexed question of the existence of a Polar passage. While living in the heart of the ice, he found many traces of Franklin's and Frobisher's expeditions—traces which were not available to any one unacquainted with the Esquimaux language. The most interesting incidents or accidents, of which there are quite a number, are narrated with skill.

Of the birds which are indigenous to the Frigid Zone, of the flora and fauna, he treats thoroughly. The domestic habits of the inhabitants, their food and way of living are discussed at large, and while he gives much valuable information, it is done in a style which precludes the possibility of the accusation of dryness.

It is not written in the style of journal which was adopted by Dr. Kane, but as a narrative, which admits of much greater freedom of both thought and expression.

It is embellished with one hundred fine engravings, many of them of great beauty, and all of them most accurate representations of the objects which they intend to portray. It is a work of rare value, and, with its correct map, gives the reader an understanding review of the course of not only his own, but also of all the preceding expeditions.

The "Lost Love." By the author of "John Drayton." T. B. Peterson & Brothers. Philadelphia.

There are several styles in which a novel can be written. The usual narrative style is most common. The plan of making extracts from the private journals of the characters is one that has been adopted with great success by Wilkie Collins, while the autobiography is one of the most pleasing, and has taken a standard position since the publication of "Jane Eyre," and "Rudolf." The author of the "Lost Love" has adopted this style, and has woven out of it a very pleasing tale. It has no depth, it has none of the nice discriminations which characterized the productions of Scott or Fielding. We will not call it a second "Waverley," nor yet a "Count of Monte Cristo," but we content ourselves by pronouncing it a good novel.

It displays originally enough to please the reader, depth of plot sufficient to excite him during its perusal, and being written in an autobiographical style, compels him to take a personal interest in the fate of the leading character. It will have a large circulation, and whoever reads it will find it full of interest, with a consciousness that it is well composed, and bears a high literary stamp. Messrs. Peterson have got it out in their usual neat style, and it will add both to the value and the beauty of any library shelf.

Lions-Hunting. By Mrs. Grey. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia.

This enterprising publishing house has made its edition of cheap and popular novels a most valuable addition. Mrs. Grey is well known to our reading public as an able and original authoress. Her "Passion and Principle," and "The Flirt," have gained her a reputation, and her latest work will not detract from the laurels already earned. We do not advise the title, but the contents are all that the lovers of exciting literature could demand. Her characters are drawn from English life, and are unfamiliar to our American public. Her clergyman hero, Mr. Fielding, is unique, the only word which is appropriate, and his wife is well portrayed. The other characters are original, and the whole plot is wrought up with great depth, and deserves to rank among one of the best conceived, although not best executed, novels of the year.

It is a sentimental work, yet one of the clearest, highest life-affusion, whose heroines are eternally surrounded by a halo of ethereal effigies, but it is a practical and will shortly be a popular work, and will have a circulation, like most of Peterson's publications, beyond the select circle of the literati.

Johnson's "New Atlas" is gaining ground daily. Those of our lawyers, merchants, or editors who have procured a copy have found it so useful in following the progress of our armies, that they have recommended it to their friends, and the demand for it is rapidly increasing.

Complimentary letters have been received from Messrs. Caleb Cope, T. S. Arthur, Prof. Hart, and many others of our most respectable citizens, and all unite in declaring it the most copious, exact, and generally valuable work of the kind ever issued.

Markets by Telegraph.

NEW YORK, December 19.—Gold opened at \$21 and sold down to \$21 1/2, closing at \$21 1/2. Stocks lower.

Chicago and Rock Island, 10 1/2c.; Cumberland, 12 1/2c.; Illinois Central, 17 1/2c.; New York Central, 10c.; North Central, 10c.; Pennsylvania, 95c.; Reading, 11 1/2c.; Hudson River, 10 1/2c.; Canfield Company, 10c.; Missouri, 10c.; Erie Railroad, 10c.; Union Pacific, 10c.; Atlantic, 10c.; St. Louis, 10c.; Texas, 10c.; Southern, 10c.; One cent. One yard of green cotton, 75c.; gold leaf board 21c., silver 60c.

Mr. Hale (N. H.) appeared in his seat.

Mr. Ten Eyck presented a petition from citizens who had United States Certificates, asking for indemnity. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Sumner (Mass.) presented a petition from Henry Ward Beecher, and three thousand citizens of New York, praying for the abolition of slavery. Referred to the Committee on Slavery.

Mr. Wilson (Mass.) presented a petition from the officers of colored troops, asking for an increase of pay etc. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. Grimes (Iowa) presented a petition of citizens of Iowa, asking for the repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Grimes presented a petition from Acting Assistant Paymasters in the United States Navy, asking that they have the rank and pay of Lieutenants in the Navy. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. Anthony (R. I.) presented a petition similar to the above, which was referred to the same Committee.

PHILADELPHIA TRADE REPORT.

MONDAY, December 19.—The unavailing weather and dark downward movement in Gold and Exchange have brought trade to a stand, and there is scarcely anything doing.

No cotton no transactions reported.

No. 12, Fourteenth Street, is offered at \$42 25 per ton, with no finding buyers.

The flour trade is very dull, and the sales are confined to a few barrels at a time.

Price of flour per barrel, \$10 50 for extra, and \$11 75

for extra fancy, and later sales, according to quality.

Small sales five bushels at \$10 50.

In Corn Meal nothing doing.

The doves for Winter is limited at last week's figure.

Small sales five bushels at \$2 75 per barrel.

Corn oil, 50 bushels, and small sales 45 bushels at \$1 50 per barrel.

New come oil, received over \$1 65. Oats are unchanged.

Oil 40 bushels, and small sales 35 bushels at \$1 50 per barrel.

Chaster comes forward slowly, and is dull. One car of soft oil at \$1 50 per barrel.

Potash 500 lbs. at \$1 50 per barrel. Peach Wine and French Wine at \$1 50 per barrel.

French Wine at \$1 50 per barrel.